

Catamount Spirit

PUBLISHED FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS & EMPLOYEES OF POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY



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IN THIS ISSUE

Senior Olympics • Alumni Achievement
A State of Minds: The Campaign
Homecoming • Outstanding Employees

Message From The Provost



As I begin my career at Potomac State College of WVU, I'm pleased to find a strong institution with talented students, faculty, and staff, and endless opportunities for growth.

One of the things that attracted me to Potomac State College was the historic mission in teaching. My academic background is in education and as an educator at both the public school level (Ohio) and higher education (West Virginia), it is gratifying to know that all classes are taught by qualified faculty and our students are able to receive personal attention due to relatively small class sizes and faculty accessibility. What we do works! Also, the alumni whom I have had the opportunity to talk with thus far attribute much of the success of their careers and lives to the experiences they received at Potomac State College.

This fall, we are predicting another healthy enrollment with more than 1800 students expected on campus. We are especially pleased to have increases in the number of first-time students and also in returning sophomores. Both are indicators that students continue to see the benefits of starting and staying at Potomac State.

While this enrollment growth is valuable in terms of revenue and prestige, it also places a strain on our existing academic, athletic and recreational facilities. We are actively working in conjunction with the new WVU capital campaign "A State of Minds" to address some of these needs. Our portion of that campaign identifies the need for a new gymnasium, additional student scholarships, Student Study/Travel Abroad Grants, the creation of a "Teaching Professorship" with funds to attract and retain an outstanding teaching-scholar, and funding to build new grandstands and a clubhouse at the Golden Park Baseball Field. We are also beginning to discuss the possibility of designing and building a new or renovated science building to support our academic mission. Please consider donating to any of these worthy needs at whatever level of support possible.

We continue to be thankful for your support and interest in Potomac State College and we hope to see you at Homecoming on October 13th!

Leonard A. Colelli, Ph.D.
Campus Provost

Alumni Enjoy Get-Together



Alumnus Geno Guerrieri, Class of '92, and son Blake, look over College brochures during the Potomac State College Alumni Association's get-together at Muriale's Restaurant in Fairmont, W.Va. They enjoyed an evening of dining and reminiscing with other PSC Alumni and friends of the College. Former Provost of the College Kerry Odell gave an update on campus renovations and introduced the new incoming Provost, Leonard Colelli, Ph.D.

Anita Hardesty, Distinguished Service

Alumna Anita Hardesty, Class of '58, is an avid volunteer alongside Libby Nichols, alumni/development associate in the Alumni Office at Potomac State. Anita is a current Alumni Board member and has served several terms on the board. She assisted with the Flower and Garden Shows, attends regional alumni dinners and currently serves on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee "A State of Minds."

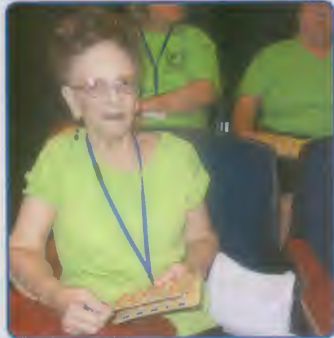
Anita travels to Charleston for the Capital Classic Luncheon each year and is also a financial supporter of the College. She has served on numerous other PSC Committees as well. Besides volunteering at the College, Anita also volunteers at Heartland of Keyser Nursing Home, serves as a co-director of the After School Program, Chair of Outreach Programs, is a member of the Mineral County CEOs, and is a member of her Church/Children's Ministry at First United Methodist Church. Additionally, during her 30-year career in education, Anita was named Mineral County Teacher of the Year for 1987, WV Teacher of the Year for 1987 and was featured in *Celebrated Women-Women's Day Magazine* 1988.



Save The Date

October 3, 2012 Alumni Dinner in Martinsburg, WV
go to www.potomacstatecollege.edu for details
February 14, 2013 Valentine's Day Dinner Theatre
(more information to come)

Senior Olympics Participant Thrives At Event



During the early days of summer, after graduation but before the start of summer classes, a different kind of seniors converge on Potomac State with the rally cry, "Let the games begin!" And so it continues as mature adults ranging in age from 55 to 90 something, golf, ping pong, bake, craft, and free-throw their way through competition after competition. One participant from Preston County, W.Va., Eileen Hartman, said it best with

the following excerpt that appeared in the Morgantown *Dominion Post* (reprinted in the *News Tribune*):

"The scenery surrounding the beautiful town was amazing. One of the first things I noticed was the lack of litter. Everything looked so fresh and new, even though I knew that this was an old town. The people were so nice and friendly. The community college's campus, Potomac State, is absolutely beautiful. Flower beds were sporting newly planted posies. Young people were everywhere, to assist us in any way possible. They helped us with our luggage at every turn; they answered our many questions, and weren't shy with the dispensing of their smiles and hugs. We all fell in love with them."

"I would have a hard time finding any group as well organized. I was there with the Tunnelton/Kingwood Senior Citizens to attend the 12th Annual Mineral County Senior Olympics. Every game was planned and carried out with care. We were treated like royalty. I cannot pick any one thing that made this one of the highlights of my life. I will go back next year, and I would urge other seniors to get involved. They will not be disappointed."

If you, too, would like to experience first-hand what makes Potomac State's Conference and Event Scheduling an excellent choice for your next social or business affair, contact us at 304-788-6831 or at 800-262-7332, extension 6831.

Dwight Calhoun, Alumni Achievement

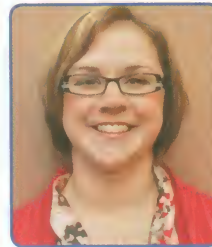


Dwight Calhoun '53, began working for the Farmers Home Administration (FMHA) in 1956 and continued his career with FMHA until his retirement in 1987. While employed with FMHA, Dwight served as a Community Services Officer, a Division Director, an Assistant Administrator of Community Programs, Deputy Administrator for Management, and as Acting Administrator of The Farmers Home Administration in Washington, D.C. where he administered several billion dollars in an agency with more than 12,000 employees. He was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award from President Reagan in 1981 and also received the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 1985. During his time with FMHA, Calhoun was instrumental in developing and assisting with community projects, developing documents for loan portfolios and administering a nationwide program involving billions of dollars to finance rural water and waste disposal facilities, as well as administering loans for hospitals, nursing homes, fire departments, streets, roads, and other essential community facilities.

Alumni To Be Honored During Homecoming

Potomac State will recognize five individuals at the annual awards banquet during Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 13 in the Davis Conference Center. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu by October 5.

Mollie Altobello, Young Alumni Achievement



After graduating from Potomac State (PSC) in 2001, Mollie (Lemon) Altobello attended West Virginia University's School of Physical Therapy where she earned a master's degree. Mollie began working part time at Heartland of Keyser in 2005 and became full time in 2010 where she currently holds the position of Director of Rehab. She has also served as a clinical instructor for the PTA program at Allegany College of Maryland and was named Clinical Instructor of the year in 2010, as well as serving as an adjunct at Allegany College from 2009-2010. While a student at PSC, Mollie was a recipient of the national Centennial Scholar Award. She also had the privilege of introducing NASA Engineer and Author Homer Hickam, Jr. who served as the keynote speaker during the College's Centennial Gala. Mollie and her husband Chris have two sons, Luca and Enzo.

Victor T. Metz, Alumni Achievement



Lieutenant Colonel Victor T. Metz, United States Air Force, Retired, also served in the Air Force Reserve as a bombardier specialist with the rank of First Lieutenant. After being recalled to duty, he flew night raids over enemy territory during the Korean War and was placed on 'ready status' with a B-47 jet bomber for possible duty over Russia. Colonel Metz served for 13 years as Commander and Aerospace Science Instructor of the AFJROTC Unit CO-62 in Westminster, Colorado before retiring in July 1984. He has owned and operated a single-engine aircraft for 12 years and also served as an assistant professor and chairman of French courses at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Colonel Metz also spent six and a half years instructing pilots, navigators and others in the nuclear/thermonuclear field. He helped pioneer the first jet bomber program in USAF history and was awarded the EAME Medal with five battle stars and the Fir Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Metz attended Potomac State from 1949 to 1951 before completing his studies at West Virginia University where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

John R. Herman, Alumni Achievement



John R. Herman, Class of '52, was a retired geophysicist and Renaissance man who will be honored posthumously. During his career, John published more than ninety scientific papers and reports and two technical books. His historical articles have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Miami Herald*, *DAR Magazine*, and the *Lowell (Mass.) Sun*. He was an amateur historian, a poet, an artist, and a musician. Some of his poems were published in two different Anchorage, Alaska newspapers, while one of his oil paintings was featured in the *Melbourne (Fla.) Today* newspaper. Herman also played violin in the Long Bay Symphony Orchestra of Myrtle Beach, SC, the Melbourne (Fla.) Community Orchestra and second violin in the DBCC Civic Orchestra of Daytona Beach, Fla. He was recognized by the College in Spring 2006 with the inscription of his name on the Duke Anthony Whitmore/Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Scholars' Wall.

Potomac State Yearbooks 'Come of Age'

Homecoming 2012
October 13



The Potomac State *Catamount* yearbooks have been digitized and are available for viewing on the PSC website at www.potomacstatecollege.edu. Anyone interested in viewing yearbooks should click on 'Alumni & Friends' on the home page and under 'Recommended Links' click on 'Old Potomac State Yearbooks'; this will take you to the digitized yearbooks. After attending a WVU workshop on digitizing documents, employees Linda Bane, assistant college librarian; Patty Lee, program assistant (pictured); and Patricia McGuire, library technical assistant; approached Jill Gardner, library director; about the possibility of digitizing the College's yearbooks. Thanks to their efforts and support from former College Provost Kerry Odell, all *Catamount* yearbooks can now be viewed via the College website.

PSC Students Realize What's Possible While Interning At The Legislature

Donna Shoemake, who graduated with a four-year degree in criminal justice this past May, and Jessica Shanholtz, a second-year criminal justice major, were chosen for the Frasure - Singleton Internship Program where they served as interns with the West Virginia Legislature during the 2012 legislative session.

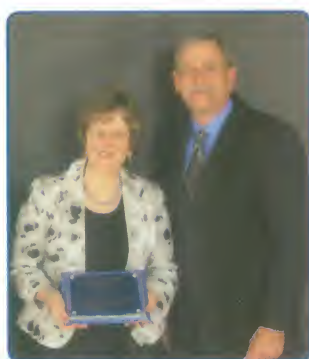
As Frasure-Singleton representatives, both students attended committee meetings and floor sessions, reviewed bills, watched public hearings, made phone calls regarding bills, researched various issues, and 'shadowed' their designated delegate.

Shoemake (left) worked alongside Delegate Bill Anderson (R-Wood County) in the House of Delegates while Shanholtz (right) worked alongside Delegate Allen Evans (R-Grant County) in the House of Delegates.



Karen Peer Named Outstanding Staff Member

Karen Peer, senior administrative assistant in the Provost's Office, was named the "2012 Outstanding Staff Person of the Year" during the Weekend of Honors this past spring. Karen began working at the College in 1983 and over the years has worked in the executive dean, president and campus provost offices. She has served under the leadership of nine head administrators of the College. Former Provost of the College Kerry Odell presented the award. Karen is a 1972 graduate of PSC.



Heidi Samuels Named Outstanding Professor

Former Campus Provost Kerry Odell (left) and Professor Jeff Jones, who also serves as chair of the Faculty Assembly, presented Professor Heidi Samuels with the "Outstanding Professor of the Year" award this past spring. Samuels began her career at Potomac State in August 2006 as an instructor in the criminal justice program. She is currently working on her dissertation through WVU's doctoral program in Higher Education Leadership.



Card Shower for Dr. Elizabeth Atwater Alexander

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Atwater's 100th birthday on September 6, 2012 by sending her a birthday card in honor of this momentous occasion.

Dr. Betty Atwater Alexander
Webster at Rye
795 Washington Road
Rye, NH 03840

We would love for her to receive at least 100 cards.

PSC Participates in Capital Campaign: *A State of Minds*

Access to higher education is a critical issue facing the United States today. Factors—ranging from cost to inadequate preparation to lack of academic, financial, and emotional support—keep many low-income, rural, and minority students from attaining college degrees. Potomac State is well-positioned to address these challenges.

At Potomac State, our objective is to bring together the intellect and ideas of many minds to support promising students and to give them the skills they will need to succeed in higher education and in life. In this way, we help produce the knowledgeable workers that our state and our country need most.

The Trajectory of Success

Realize What's Possible: Potomac State College's tagline says it all. For students from small rural areas and large urban settings, PSC is an invaluable stepping-stone: a place to develop the foundation necessary to persevere in college.

PSC is unique in West Virginia and, in many ways, the country. We are the only two-year, in-state school offering residence halls, intercollegiate athletics, and agriculture and forestry programs.

We are in a very positive position. Over the past decade, enrollment has grown from approximately 1,300 to more than 1,800 students. Private giving also increased with more than \$3 million in new gifts received by the WVU Foundation to benefit Potomac State. In addition, more than \$25 million in capital improvements has been made to campus, including construction of

University Place, a residential complex housing 350 students which includes two dining venues, a theater and a fitness center.

But we need to do more. For our academic programs to remain viable, we need to continue to increase enrollment. We need to expand and enhance facilities to accommodate more students in order to deliver a better experience. And we need to invest in our outstanding students and faculty. To do this, we need partners, like you, who believe in Potomac State College and want to invest in its future.

Priorities for Tomorrow

A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University is Potomac State College's way to "Realize What's Possible." We ask you to consider supporting the following people, places and programs that will strengthen PSC's distinct objective.

- Gymnasium
- Student Scholarships
- Student Study/Travel Abroad Grants
- Teaching Professorship
- Golden Park Grandstands and Clubhouse

To learn more about these funding priorities contact Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or visit www.potomacstatecollege.edu.

Homecoming 2012, The Pathway To Success

Homecoming kicks off on **Friday, October 12**, with the annual **50's Get Together** at the Candlewyck Inn beginning at 6 p.m. with the Social Hour and Dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the buffet is \$19.85 and includes a non-alcoholic drink, dessert, tax, and gratuity. The deadline for reservations is October 5. Contact Pat Hovis at 304-788-4065 or phovis1@frontier.com for more information.

On **Saturday, October 13**, the **Homecoming Brunch & Recognition of Anniversary Classes 1962, 1987 and 2002** will be held in the Heritage Room (located in University Place) from 9 until 10:30 a.m. Campus Provost Leonard Colelli will provide an update on the College at 10 a.m.

Other activities scheduled for Saturday include a **Campus Tour** at 10:30 a.m., a **PSC Women's Soccer** match with Howard County Community College at 11 a.m., **PSC Men's Soccer** match with Howard County Community College at 1 p.m., both at Stayman Field, and a **PSC Women's Volleyball** match with CCBC-Catonsville at 1 p.m. in Lough Gymnasium. The bookstore will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to accommodate individuals wanting to purchase Potomac State and WVU items. The Library will also be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The day will culminate with the **Awards Banquet** which will be held in the Davis Conference Center. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Alumni Achievement Honorees include Victor Metz '51, John Herman '52 (to be honored posthumously) and Dwight Calhoun '53. Our Distinguished Service Honoree is Anita Hardesty '58. The recipient of the Young Alumni Award is Mollie Altobello '01.

So don't wait! Make your reservations now by contacting Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu.